

*In Loving Remembrance
Of*

MR. RALPH CLEVELAND LEWIS

SUNRISE:
August 22, 1937

SUNSET:
August 21, 2003



SERVICES
Thursday, August 28, 2003
11:00 A.M.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
1203 Willow Street
Oakland, California

OFFICIATING
Pastor Brian Hunter

Remembering...

Mr. Ralph Cleveland Lewis was born August 22, 1937 in Beaumont, Texas to Ms. Hattie Arline. Ralph was raised in Phoenix, Arizona, by a loving Mother and his Uncle Family. Ralph moved to San Francisco with his mother where he completed High School at George Washington. He met and married Shirley Young and out of this union was born four beautiful children. Ralph wore many hats during his life. He worked for the City of San Francisco's Municipal Railway and after 30 years of service he retired at the early age of 53. Ralph also worked as an Insurance Agent and Broker for over 25 years. Ralph was most known for his Gift of playing and teaching Gospel Music.

Ralph accepted Christ at an early age. Upon his arrival in San Francisco he joined Greater Gethsemane COGIC and later became the Minister of Music, birthing many singers, musicians and writers. Ralph was also the Minister of Music for North West California State Choir. Ralph founded the Ralph Lewis Choral Ensemble in the 70's. This choir received many honors and the San Francisco Chronicle did an article that reflected on the accomplishments of this great choir. Ralph also was the Minister of Music at Victory Temple COGIC for many years under the Pasturage of Joe Nobles and was the co-producer of the first live recording of the choir. Ralph was also a faithful member and musician of the Northern California Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America under the auspices of Helen Stephens. Ralph was instrumental in training and teaching many choirs throughout the Bay Area. In the days before his health failed he played for Church by the Side of the Road, under Pastor Arthur Scott, Bible fellowship under the Pasturage of Timothy Hawkins and for Mt. Zion Baptist Church under the Pasturage for several years.

Later in life Ralph met and married his best friend Johnnie. Ralph was the perfect example of what a husband should be. He spent time with and lovingly protected his wife. He was supportive and a good provider. Johnnie was called by God to start a program for women called S.I.S.T.E.R. and Ralph gave his full support. He often came to the office and waited while she worked late into the night. He was a father to many of women who respectfully called him Papa Ralph. Ralph and Johnnie had a wonderful life together, traveling, being with friends, laughing and eating at restaurants. Ralph was so secure in his stature as a man that he allowed Johnnie the freedom to be a woman who knows that her man had her under his wing.

Children loved Ralph and he loved them. No child was ever a stranger to Ralph. He gave them unconditional love. Ralph was a person who loved to socialize with people. He would go to the West Oakland Senior Center and to a friend's house on a regular basis to play his favorite game of Dominoes.

The day before Ralph's 66th birthday God called him home. He leaves to celebrate His Transition to a Higher Calling his wife, Johnnie; mother-in-law, Lela Howard; children, Stephanie, Ralph, Sr., Gwen, Dwayne, Lela and Derrick; grandchildren, Alandria, Natasha, Michelle, Lavonne and Jonathan; brother, Willie Robinson; uncle, Lloyd Arline; as well as numerous cousins and close friends who loved him as well.

Order Of Service

Prelude Organ

Minister Sylvester Burkes

Processional

Pastor Arthur Scott

Scriptures

Old Testament Minister Mims
New Testament Minister Taylor

Mass Choir

Prayer

Victoria Burcher

Musical Selection

Jataun - Dance Theater of the Gospel

Resolutions

Janey Robinson

Solo

Family and Friends

Dance of Celebration

Jataun

Solo

Pastors and Ministers

Remarks

Tom Cloman

Secret Place

Mable Mims

Remarks

Love Song from Ralph to Johnnie to Ralph

Solo

Pastor Brian Hunter

Obituary

Tributes to Ralph

Eulogy

Parting View

Recessional



INTERMENT
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, California

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Perhaps you made a comforting call or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a card or dish of food; If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much.
Whatever the part, may God bless you. -The Family*

Services Entrusted To
McNary-Morgan-Engel & Jackson
Mosswood Chapel
3630 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California